beau blondin, that *I* am afraid to go in a carriage
in the dark—presque seuL[1]

January i8th,
1797.

I send you two prints of the present dresses
of Paris, done by Vernet's son, and not the least
caricatured, however extraordinary they may appear
to you. What a change even the two months I
have been here have made in dress, manners, &c.!
The return of tranquility and diminution of terror
in the minds of belles, beaux, and dastardly
honnetes gens, who, in fact, deserve no name but
that of egotists, have produced a wonderful im-
provement and increase of luxury. The quantity
of handsome carriages just come out; the circum-
stance of servants again getting up behind them,
and being better dressed; abb6s and others
walking *chapeau bas;* the men more elegantly and
the women more richly habited, strike my eyes
as I move about in private and in public. I have
this day, for the first time, seen a *vinaigrette?*

1 M. de B. enquiring of the pretty M. de T. if she was
going quite alone into the country, the

lady answered, *"Presque seule."*

2 A species of sedan chair upon two wheels. These vehicles were introduced when all the horses in Paris were put in requisition for the army.